

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 6-9, and 16-19 are amended. Claim 1 is independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 2-20 contain allowable subject matter.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. In response, rather than rewriting any of objected-to claims 2-20 in independent form at this time, instead, independent claim 1 is amended to include a combination of elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Correct Name of Inventor

The Applicant appreciates that that the inventor's name will be corrected to read "Satoshi HONDA" in the next official communication.

Foreign Priority Claim

It is appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority.

Information Disclosure Citation

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 21, 2003, and for providing the Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

It is appreciated that the Examiner has indicated that the drawings have been accepted.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uetake (U.S. 5,931,245) or Thompson (U.S. 3,989,990). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to include *inter alia*

when the switch is open and the battery is not connected to said control means, said control means is activated by regenerative electric power of the motor in order to instruct said voltage stabilizing means.

With the present invention, when the battery is not connected, the control means is activated by regenerative electric power of the motor. Thus, if the battery is removed, and the regenerative electric power from the motor is larger than a predetermined value, the power line is stabilized.

On the other hand, in each of the references (Uetake (U.S. 5,931,245) and Thompson (U.S. 3,989,990)) cited by the Examiner, the control means is activated by power from the battery. Thus if the battery is not connected, the control means will not be activated, and the power supply line will no be stabilized.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Uetake (U.S. 5,931,245) and Thompson (U.S. 3,989,990). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 6-9 and 16-19 have been amended to reflect the changes to claim 1.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

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All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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JMS:CTT/ags